

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 COME-00 TRSE-00

FMC-02 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /052 R

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TREAS/CUSTOMS:EGABLE

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MARAD:RBOURDON

L/EB:FWILLIS (INFO)

EUR/RPE:ADSENS

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P R 191630Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

AMCONSUL ROTTERDAM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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EC BRUSSELS FOR SPIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, ETRN, EEC, SZ, US

SUBJECT: SHIPPING: USG VIEWS ON ECE RESOLUTION NO. 15 ON

SHIPBORNE BARGES/PROPOSED EC/SWISS INLAND WATERWAY TONNAGE

CAPACITY REGULATIONS

REF: A) ECE DOC. TRANS/SC3/83 (DECEMBER 16, 1974);
B) EC BRUSSELS 5075; C) STATE 064138 (MARCH 29, 1974)

1. US MISSION GENEVA REQUESTED TO TRANSMIT FOLLOWING NOTE
TO ECE SECRETARIAT:

BEGIN TEXT:

(A) THE REPORT BY THE WORKING PARTY ON INLAND WATER
TRANSPORT ON ITS 18TH SESSION (TRANS/SC3/83) REQUESTS
GOVERNMENTS TO INFORM THE SECRETARIAT WHETHER THEY ACCEPT
THE PROVISIONS OF RESOLUTION NO. 15 CONCERNING SHIP-
BORNE BARGES.

(B) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS RESOLUTION ARE ACCEPTABLE TO
THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IF THE FINAL RECOMMENDATION
OF THE FIRST NUMBERED PARAGRAPH PERTAINS TO PAYING TAXES
AND TOLLS OF ALL KINDS APPLICABLE TO SERVICES RENDERED
OR PRIVILEGES PROVIDED ON INLAND WATERWAYS.

(C) THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CANNOT ACCEPT A RECOM-
MENDATION THAT WOULD CALL FOR SHIPBORNE BARGES TO BE
TAXED TO ALLEVIATE VARIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, INCLUDING
DISPOSITION OF OBSOLETE CRAFT, COMPENSATION FOR OWNERS
OF VESSELS NOT EMPLOYED DURING PERIODS OF LOWER DEMAND,
OR COMPARABLE MEASURES.

(D) ALTHOUGH THE RESOLUTION WAS COMPOSED IN REFERENCE
TO THE EUROPEAN INLAND WATERS, THE SERVICES ARE EQUALLY
APPLICABLE TO THE INLAND WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES ON
THE BASIS OUTLINED. THOUSANDS OF VESSELS OF EUROPEAN
REGISTRY ENTER AND USE U.S. RIVERS, HARBORS, WATERWAYS
AND THE GREAT LAKES EACH YEAR. THEY ARE ASSESSED TOLLS,
HARBOR FEES AND CUSTOMARY CHARGES FOR SERVICES RENDERED
AT THE LEVEL APPLIED TO VESSELS OF THE U.S. OR OTHER
FOREIGN REGISTRY, BUT ARE NOT TAXED TO PROVIDE FUNDS THAT
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WOULD BE USED TO COMPENSATE OWNERS OF U.S. VESSELS NOT
FULLY EMPLOYED OR NO LONGER REQUIRED.

(E) THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THIS DISTINC-
TION, NOT SOLELY CONFINED TO SHIPBORNE BARGES, IS AN
IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE THAT SHOULD BE MAINTAINED AMONG TRAD-
ING PARTNERS FOR VESSELS HANDLING IMPORT/EXPORT SHIPMENTS.

(F) THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL SEEK CLARIFICATION
OF THE PROVISION "THAT SHIP-BORNE BARGES SHOULD PAY THE
TAXES AND TOLLS OF ALL KINDS APPLICABLE ON INLAND WATER-
WAYS" AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE ECE WORKING PARTY ON
INLAND WATER TRANSPORT. IN THE MEANTIME, IT IS REQUESTED

THAT THE VIEWS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES BE CONVEYED TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE.

END TEXT.

2. EC BRUSSELS AND AMEMBASSIES BERN/ALL EC CAPITALS ARE REQUESTED TO PROVIDE EC SECRETARIAT AND HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS (BOTH SHIPPING AND FOREIGN MINISTRY), RESPECTIVELY, WITH INFORMATION COPY OF FOREGOING TEXT BEFORE SCHEDULED EC/SWISS JUNE 23 MEETING MENTIONED REF B ON PROPOSED EC/SWISS INLAND WATERWAY TONNAGE CAPACITY REGULATIONS.

3. DEPARTMENT HAD CONSIDERED PROVIDING EC SECRETARIAT WITH PAPER SUGGESTED EC BRUSSELS 9941. HOWEVER, CONCERNED US FLAG LINES WERE UNABLE TO PROVIDE DESIRED INFORMATION. NEVERTHELESS, POSTS WILL NOTE USG VIEWS RE RESOLUTION NO. 15 ARE DIRECTLY RELATED TO PROPOSED EC/SWISS TONNAGE REGS. USG POSITION ON REGS. REMAINS AS OUTLINED REF C. ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD EXPRESS CONTINUING USG CONCERN RE APPLICATION OF REGS. TO LASH AND SEABEE BARGES AND STRESS POSSIBILITY OF SECTION 19(B) COUNTERVAILING MEASURES (SEE PARA 6, REF C). ADDITIONALLY, EMBASSIES AND USEC BRUSSELS SHOULD INFORM OFFICIALS THAT APPLICATION OF REGS. TO US FLAG LASH AND SEABEE BARGES MAY JEOPARDIZE RECIPROCAL EXEMPTION (DOES NOT APPLY TO LUXEMBOURG) FROM THE PAYMENT OF U.S. SPECIAL TONNAGE

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TAXES THAT THEIR VESSELS PRESENTLY ENJOY UNDER U.S. CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS (19 USC 4.22), THEREBY MAKING THEIR VESSELS SUBJECT TO PAYMENT OF ONE DOLLAR PER NET TON TAX OVER AND ABOVE REGULAR TONNAGE TAXES ASSESSED BY U.S. CUSTOMS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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EC BRUSSELS
BERN
BONN
BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN

DUBLIN
THE HAGUE
LONDON
LUXEMBOURG
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